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thing disagreeable that will minister to the patient's welfare. But the performance of the personal service to which I have referred is not professional work and it meets no real need, for, nine times out of ten, the woman would be better off both physically and morally if she waited upon herself. With a child, the case is quite different. As his strength returns the nurse teaches him each day to do a little more for himself, and he takes pride in regaining his independence. But the woman who is used to being waited upon feels neglected and aggrieved if she does not receive the attention to which she has become accustomed, and the nurse finds that if she wishes to be acceptable she must fill the place of a lady's maid. This being the case, is it to be wondered at that she should dislike remaining during the period of convalescence?

Massachusetts.

S. B. JOHNSON.

CARE OF THE DEAD

DEAR EDITOR: Through conversation recently with an experienced undertaker and several nurses, I learned that many nurses are not taught, while in their training schools, how to properly care for a body after death.

In the first place, the nurse will aid very materially the peace and comfort of the very sick patient by keeping the room quiet and cool, with plenty of fresh air. When it is known positively that the end is a matter of hours or less time, if she can induce the attending physician and family to consent to discontinue all nourishment and medication, except what may be indicated to relieve pain and discomfort, the possible vomiting or choking during the last moments may be avoided.

After the patient has passed away, and as soon as the nurse can get the attention of the calm member of the family—there usually is one—she should suggest that an undertaker be selected and sent for, if it has not already been done. While waiting for him, she should bathe and dress the patient in the underwear, nightdress, and stockings which have been selected and brought to her for that purpose. Nails, nose, and ears should be cared for, hair combed and dressed nicely. The patient should be placed in a reclining position by putting two or more pillows under head and shoulders. The hands should be placed lightly on the chest with the tips of the fingers toward the chin. The reclining posture causes the blood from the head and upper part of the body to pass to the abdomen, thus materially assisting the undertaker in his care of the body and his efforts to bring an appearance of naturalness and repose to one who has possibly suffered long and sorely and prevents possible purging or other unpleasant or distressing conditions.

While the body is being embalmed the nurse can remove and dispose of all medicines and all evidences of illness.

A nurse who can do these things is truly a comfort and help in time of trouble.

New York.

A. M. S.

PERPLEXITIES

DEAR EDITOR: Things constantly arise in private nursing which I don't think any human being has foreseen nor our training prepared us for. Is \$25 per week too much money for a nurse who works twelve hours in the sick room, over a low bed with a straw tick and feather bed, with coil springs, in divisions?

I could think of no way to raise the bed. No sheets were available, nothing but dark rags for the patient to use as handkerchiefs,—a soft coal stove to heat, and the dish washing a disgrace to humanity.

You will say: Where were these people when the lectures on hygiene and sanitation were being given? They have forgotten the lectures, that is all. They are in their own home.

My last three cases were in homes where the people are worth thousands of dollars; money and dirt were rivals.

There has been so much done for every other field of nursing. This one field is in the greatest need of improvement.

Iowa.

J. K.

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PATIENT

DEAR EDITOR: Some time ago I had a confinement case for which I had been engaged for several months, but had been unable to visit my patient before labor, when I was called. My patient was having pains, but she laughed and talked even during pains, so I very leisurely made my preparations. While doing this I noticed that she read a paper all the time she possibly could. I thought she was trying to keep her mind occupied so as not to worry. After I had put her to bed, I happened to pick up the paper she had been reading. It would be hard to describe my feeling when I read the name *Christian Science Herald*. It was the first I had known of her religion.

She did not object to anything that was done during labor, which was easy, "thanks to Christian Science," as she said. Afterwards she did not want medicine, or anything connected with it, mentioned. During the first week a crack came in one nipple. I applied hot boric compresses and it soon seemed entirely healed. A few days later the breast showed marked signs of infection. She would not hear of my calling the doctor who had visited us only a few times. However, I 'phoned to him and he ordered hot fomentations, which she seemed only half willing that I should apply. By evening all of the symptoms were exaggerated.

Still she clung to Christian Science. She said if I thought there was anything seriously wrong she would 'phone to her Christian Science practitioner, who would give her an absent treatment.

I have not been in the habit of telling my patients their condition, so I called up the doctor and asked him to come out. She was very angry when he came and threatened to discharge me. I said she could, but I had done only what I had considered my duty. She soon calmed down and said she was only joking and after this she was very tractable. She said it was no use trying to do anything in Christian Science with a trained nurse in the house and a doctor at the end of a 'phone, but next time she would have a Christian Science nurse.

I was not allowed to say that the baby had colic, but "wind on the bowels." She also told me that I caused the abscess in her breast by thinking it might happen.

This was my first experience in nursing a Christian Scientist. I made up my mind that another time I would tell my patient that if she wanted me to stay she must agree to let me carry out my orders without protest; then she could have all the Christian Science she wanted.

Kansas.

G. L.